

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information partitioning apparatus for partitioning information in an inputted electronic document, comprising:

division pattern storing means for storing therein one or plural division patterns defining a predetermined character string which can be represented in a division line; and

document dividing means for applying the one or ~~more~~ plural division patterns stored in the division pattern storing means to the inputted electronic document to divide the electronic document ~~to~~ into plural partial documents;

labeling pattern storing means for storing therein plural labeling patterns provided with classification information pieces for defining a predetermined character string which can specify classification; and

labeling means for applying the labeling patterns stored in the labeling pattern storing means to the respective partial documents obtained by the division conducted by the document dividing means, respectively, to provide the classification information pieces.

Claim 2 (Original): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the division pattern storing means stores plural division patterns for an electronic document of one kind.

Claim 3 (Original): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the division pattern storing means stores a division pattern which can be applied regardless of the kind of an electronic document.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the division pattern storing means stores ~~such~~ a division pattern (a searching division pattern) so that, when discrimination has been made that to the inputted electronic document, if within a predetermined line from a line coincident with the division pattern (a searching division pattern), there is not a line coincident with another division pattern, a the line coincident with the division pattern (a searching division pattern) is defined as the division line.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim § 1, wherein the labeling pattern storing means stores plural labeling patterns for an electronic document of one kind.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim § 1, wherein the labeling pattern storing means stores a labeling pattern which can be applied regardless of the kind of an electronic document.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim § 1, wherein the labeling pattern includes the same pattern as the division pattern.

Claim 9 (Original): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising: discrimination pattern storing means for storing therein discrimination patterns for discriminating the kind of the electronic document inputted; and

document kind discriminating means for referencing to the discrimination patterns stored in the discrimination pattern storing means to discriminate the kind of the inputted electronic document.

Claim 10 (Original): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising division pattern producing means for recognizing existence of plural lines including similar character strings in similar positions in the electronic document inputted to produce the division pattern and register the same in the division pattern storing means.

Claim 11 (Original): An information partitioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the electronic document is a mail magazine.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An information partitioning method for partitioning information in an inputted electronic document, comprising:

a document dividing step of applying one or plural division patterns defining a predetermined character string which can be expressed in a division line to the electronic document inputted to divide the electronic document to plural partial documents; and

a labeling step of applying labeling patterns provided with classification information pieces for defining a predetermined character string which can specify classification to the respective partial documents obtained by the division conducted in

classification to the respective partial documents obtained by the division conducted in
the document dividing step to provide the classification information pieces.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An information partitioning method according to claim 12, wherein, when discrimination has been made ~~that to the inputted electronic document, a line coincident with the division pattern (a searching division pattern) is defined as the division line if within a predetermined line from a line coincident with a division pattern (a searching division pattern), there is not a line coincident with another division pattern~~_[,] ~~a line coincident with the division pattern (a searching division pattern) is defined as the division line.~~

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information partitioning method according to claim ~~14~~ ~~12~~, further comprising a document kind discriminating step of discriminating the kind of the electronic document inputted, wherein

the document dividing step performs dividing to partial documents using the discriminated division patterns for document kind, and

the labeling step provides the classification information pieces using the discriminated labeling patterns for the document kind.

Claim 16 (Original): An information partitioning method according to claim 12, further comprising a division pattern producing step of recognizing existence plural lines

including similar character strings at similar positions in the electronic document inputted to produce the division pattern and register the same.

Claim 17 (Original): An information partitioning method according to claim 12, wherein the electronic document is a mail magazine.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A recording medium in which ~~the~~ an information partitioning program ~~according to claim 18~~ has been recorded, the information partitioning program including the information partitioning method according to claim 12, which has been described with a code and can be executed by a computer.

Claim 20 (New): An information partitioning apparatus for partitioning information in an inputted electronic document, comprising:

division pattern storing means for storing therein one or plural division patterns defining a predetermined character string which can be represented in a division line;

document dividing means for applying the one or plural division patterns stored in the division pattern storing means to the inputted electronic document to divide the electronic document into plural partial documents;

discrimination pattern storing means for storing therein discrimination patterns for discriminating the kind of the electronic document inputted; and

document kind discriminating means for referencing to the discrimination patterns

stored in the discrimination pattern storing means to discriminate the kind of the inputted electronic document.

Claim 21 (New): An information partitioning method for partitioning information in an inputted electronic document, comprising:

a document dividing step of applying one or plural division patterns defining a predetermined character string which can be expressed in a division line to the electronic document inputted to divide the electronic document to plural partial documents;

a document kind discriminating step of discriminating the kind of the electronic document inputted, wherein

the document dividing step performs dividing to partial documents using the discriminated division patterns for document kind, and

a labeling step provides classification information pieces to respective partial documents using discriminated labeling patterns for the document kind.